

These notes are taken from Mr. Buturlin's 'Limicolæ of the Russian Empire' (ii. pp. 133, 134), in Russian, and have been kindly translated for me by Mr. Buturlin, who adds in his letter that, so far as he can recollect, only one of the two clutches of eggs above referred to, namely, that taken in the delta of the Lena, was brought to St. Petersburg. *Tringa ruficollis*, Mr. Buturlin writes, does not occur west of the Lena, and all the Stints found breeding west of that river, and all the specimens collected by von Middendorff, prove to be referable to *Tringa minuta*.

## EXPLANATION OF PLATE X.

## Eggs of

- Figs. 1, 2. *Otocorys elwesi*, p. 486.  
 „ 3. *Rhopophilus albisuperciliaris*, p. 486.  
 „ 4, 6. *Podoces pleskii*, p. 487.  
 „ 5. *Ægialitis placida*, p. 488.  
 „ 7, 8, 9. *Tringa ruficollis*, p. 489.

XXI.—*Contributions to the Ornithology of Egypt.*

By MICHAEL J. NICOLL, M.B.O.U.

## NO. I.—LAKE MENZALEH.

THE following paper is based chiefly on a collection of birds made during a short stay in the vicinity of Lake Menzaleh, at the beginning of January 1908.

I left Cairo on January 4th, accompanied by Capt. J. W. H. Seppings, of the Army Pay Department. By kind permission of the Director of the Coastguard Administration we used the "Rest-House" at Gheit-el-Nassara, which is situated on the edge of Lake Menzaleh about two miles from Damietta.

At this place the cultivation extends almost to the edge of the lake, only a narrow border of marshland intervening. Near the Rest-House, however, there is a strip of sandy ground, and most of our collecting was done on the edge of the cultivated land, for it was there that birds were most numerous. At the time of our visit, however, there were no noticeable changes in the numbers, as the

spring migration had not commenced, and all the species met with were either winter-visitors or residents. The latter, moreover, compare unfavourably with the enormous numbers of birds which pass through Egypt on migration. Altogether eighty-seven species of birds were met with during a week's stay at Gheit-el-Nassara, the most interesting of which were:—Both forms of Bluethroat (*Cyanecula suecica typica* and *C. s. leucocyanus*), Richard's Pipit (*Anthus richardi*), the resident form of Blue-headed Wagtail (*Motacilla flava pygmaea*), a Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella minor*), and the Red-crested Pochard (*Fuligula rufina*). Most of the birds that we observed are so well-known that perhaps it is advisable to explain the object of the present paper. Since the publication of Shelley's 'Birds of Egypt' and Gurney's 'Rambles of a Naturalist' little has been written on the ornithology of Egypt proper. The latest information on the subject is a paper in 'The Ibis' for 1906, p. 113, by Mr. W. L. S. Loat, entitled "On a small Collection of Birds from the Vicinity of Lake Menzaleh in the Delta of Egypt." It has therefore occurred to me that a series of papers on the ornithology of this country may prove of interest and perhaps finally lead to the publication of a revised volume on the Birds of Egypt.

The references in the present paper refer to Shelley's 'Birds of Egypt' and Loat's paper in 'The Ibis' as mentioned above.

As regards nomenclature, I have adhered as far as possible to that of Howard Saunders's 'Manual of British Birds,' 2nd edition, though for most of the non-"British" birds I have followed Hartert's 'Die Vögel der Paläarktischen Fauna,' to the author of which splendid work I am indebted for much kind help in the identification of several of my forms.

#### TURDUS MUSICUS.

*Turdus musicus* Shelley, p. 66; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 114.

A single Song-Thrush was seen on January 9th at Gheit-el-Nassara. This species is a regular winter-visitor to Egypt.

## PRATINCOLA RUBICOLA.

*Pratincola rubicola* Shelley, p. 81 ; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 115.

The Stonechat was frequently met with near the cultivated ground on the edge of the lake. A pair obtained were assuming their breeding-dress ; the shedding of the pale edges of the feathers was well advanced.

## CYANECULA SUECICA.

*Cyanecula suecica* Shelley, p. 85 ; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 115.

Bluethroats were exceedingly common in the cultivated parts and also in the reeds on the edge of the marshes. I shot altogether twelve examples—one adult male of the typical form, two of the white-spotted form, two adult females, and the rest immature birds. Adult males are easily identified, but it is impossible to say to which form females and young belong.

The young birds vary considerably among themselves as regards the intensity of the blue collar on the breast ; this colour ranges from a deep blackish blue to pale cobalt. In some examples the white band which separates the blue collar from the red band on the lower breast is well-marked ; in others it is absent. I notice that birds with the deepest-coloured blue gorget usually have no white band, while those with the pale blue gorget have this line well developed.

All the young males have a more or less well-marked triangular red *patch* on the lower throat, and the chin and upper throat dull isabelline buff, though several have a line of bright blue feathers running from the gape to below the eye. Adult males have the entire chin, throat, and upper breast, with the exception of the "spot," blue, though in the winter all the feathers are edged with buffy white ; the edges break off as spring advances. I imagine that young birds moult the feathers of the throat in the spring, for one of my specimens has several new feathers "in quill" on the chin and upper throat.

The subspecies *C. suecica wolffi*, though it has a totally different breeding-range, appears to winter in Egypt in company with the red-spotted form ; however, it is not nearly

so abundant as the latter. I obtained only two adult males, though another was seen at a short distance.

One of my specimens has a few of the white feathers of the "spot" tipped with reddish, but this colour would undoubtedly wear off with the rest of the tips of the feathers of the throat before the breeding-season. This example I imagine is not a very old bird, as the feathers of the centre of the upper throat are broadly tipped with isabelline-buff. When on the open ground, Bluethroats very seldom allowed me to get a sight of their throat, and it was only by watching them with glasses from a distance that I was able to get a glimpse of the "spot."

ACROCEPHALUS STREPERUS.

*Calamoherpe arundinacea* Shelley, p. 94.

*Acrocephalus arundinaceus* Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 116.

This Reed-Warbler was only seen on two occasions and no specimens were obtained. I doubt if many winter in Egypt.

ACROCEPHALUS STENTOREUS.

*Acrocephalus stentoreus* Shelley, p. 95; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 116.

The Clamorous Reed-Warbler was not uncommon in the thick growth of bulrushes on the marshes, and six examples were obtained. This species, which is resident in Egypt, may at once be distinguished by its long slender bill from the European Great Reed-Warbler (*A. turdoides*) which passes through Egypt on migration. In the resident bird the second primary is shorter than the third, while in the European species the second and third are equal.

The legs of the present species are usually described as slaty brown. All my specimens, however, had these parts lead-coloured, in which respect they agree with *winter* specimens of *A. turdoides*, the tarsi and toes of which, like those of some of the species of *Sylvia*, turn to lead-colour in winter. The females of this Reed-Warbler have slightly shorter wings than the males.

## PHYLLOSCOPUS RUFUS.

*Phyllopneuste rufa* Shelley, p. 102.

*Phylloscopus rufus* Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 117.

Great numbers of Chiffchaffs were met with. They were noticed in the reeds on the edge of the lake, in the low trees on the cultivated land, and amongst the growing clover, while they swarmed in the herbage on the edge of the lake and marshes.

The Chiffchaff winters in Lower Egypt. I once heard the song in winter, in December 1906, while by the middle of March all the males are in full song.

The Willow-Wren (*P. trochilus*) was not met with at Gheit-el-Nassara, and, so far as I can at present ascertain, does not winter in Egypt.

## CISTICOLA CURSITANS.

*Cisticola schoenicola* Shelley, p. 97; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 116.

The Fan-tailed Warbler was extremely common in the "Birseem" fields in the vicinity of the lake. This species appears to be resident in Egypt.

## DRYMÆCA GRACILIS.

*Drymæca gracilis* Shelley, p. 98; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 116.

The Long-tailed Wren-Warbler was even more numerous than the Fan-tailed Warbler; it is likewise resident in Egypt.

## MOTACILLA ALBA.

*Motacilla alba* Shelley, p. 126; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 117.

The White Wagtail was abundant everywhere. It is a winter-visitor in Egypt, arriving in October and departing in March.

## MOTACILLA MELANOPE.

*Motacilla sulphurea* Shelley, p. 126.

Mr. Loat did not meet with this species. We saw a single example feeding along the edge of a stream of water close to the Rest-House at Gheit-el-Nassara. A few remain in the Zoological Gardens at Giza throughout the winter months.

## MOTACILLA FLAVA PYGMÆA Brehm.

? *Motacilla flava* Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 117.

The Egyptian form of the Grey-headed Wagtail was very abundant in the clover-fields round Damietta, and three examples were obtained, two males and one female.

This subspecies differs from *Motacilla flava cinereocapilla*, as well as from all the other forms of the Blue-headed Wagtail, in its small size and short wing and tail; these peculiarities are very noticeable during flight; the wing-bars are only faintly marked. Adult males have a very small white eye-stripe, though in some specimens it is hardly discernible.

I have specimens of this Wagtail shot in the neighbourhood of Cairo from September to May. Those obtained during May were feeding young, so there is no doubt that this species remains in Egypt throughout the year. Such being the case, it is interesting to find that there is a perfectly distinct form of *Motacilla flava* resident in the Nile Delta.

*Motacilla flava typica*, *M. f. borealis*, and *M. f. melanocephala* all pass through Egypt on migration.

## ANTHUS PRATENSIS.

*Anthus pratensis* Shelley, p. 131; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 118.

Next to the Red-throated Pipit, this species was the most abundant Pipit at the time of our visit. It is a winter-visitor to Egypt. One specimen was obtained.

## ANTHUS CERVINUS.

*Anthus cervinus* Shelley, p. 131; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 131.

Red-throated Pipits were found in numbers on every damp or cultivated spot in the vicinity of Gheit-el-Nassara. I consider them to be the most abundant of all the winter-visitors to Egypt. It is impossible to walk through a field in Lower Egypt without putting up scores of these birds. In a day's walk thousands of them may be met with. The call-note differs from that of all other palæartic Pipits, though it somewhat approaches in character that of the Tree-Pipit. It is a long-drawn "chēc̄p!" more like the



call of a Reed-Bunting (*Emberiza schœniclus*) than anything else I know. Old females and young males have red throats by December, while the adult males have this colour extended over a great part of the breast as well. Young females much resemble Meadow-Pipits, but the spotted rump of the Red-throated Pipit is always a characteristic feature. The dark streaks on the *under* tail-coverts are not always present.

ANTHUS SPIPOLETTA COUTELLII.

*Anthus spinolettus* Shelley, p. 132.

*Anthus spipoletta* Loat, *Ibis*, 1906, p. 118.

*Anthus spinoletta coutellii* Hartert, *Vögel der Pal. Fauna*, Heft iii. p. 281.

Water-Pipits were frequently met with on the edge of Lake Menzaleh, and one specimen was obtained. I have followed Dr. Hartert in separating the Egyptian Water-Pipit as a subspecies. All examples that I have so far shot in Egypt certainly differ considerably in coloration from those which I have obtained in England.

ANTHUS RICHARDI.

*Anthus richardi* Loat, *Ibis*, 1906, p. 118.

Mr. Loat appears to have been the first to record the occurrence of Richard's Pipit in Egypt.

I met with several examples near the Rest-House. They were nearly always in pairs and were exceedingly shy, so much so that I was not able to obtain more than one specimen. The loud call-note "Riëp" is audible from a great distance, and is apparently only uttered when the bird is on the wing.

HIRUNDO SAVIGNII.

*Hirundo ricourii* Shelley, p. 121; Loat, *Ibis*, 1906, p. 117.

Several examples were seen every day flying over a large sheet of water near the edge of the lake. This species is resident in Egypt.

CARDUELIS ELEGANS.

*Carduelis elegans* Shelley, p. 152.

Mr. Loat does not seem to have met with Goldfinches

near Damietta. A few hours before I left I saw a small flock in some low trees near the Coastguard Station, but had no gun with me at the time, consequently I am not sure to what form these birds belonged. A few pairs of Goldfinches nested in the Giza Zoological Gardens in 1907.

LINOTA CANNABINA.

*Linota cannabina* Shelley, p. 154; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 119.

A very few Linnets were seen and no examples were obtained.

This species is a winter-visitor to Egypt.

PASSER DOMESTICUS INDICUS.

*Passer domestica* subsp. ? Hartert, Vögel der Pal. Fauna, ii. p. 151.

*Passer domesticus* Shelley, p. 148.

Abundant in the cultivated country.

PASSER HISPANIOLENSIS.

*Passer salicicola* Shelley, p. 149.

We did not meet with this Sparrow at Damietta, and up to the present time I have not seen it wild in Egypt. Since our return, however, I have received the skin of an adult male obtained by Lieut. J. B. Jenkinson at Ras-el-Khalig, a few miles from Damietta. Mr. Jenkinson informs me that he shot this bird out of a small flock. I also possess the skin of an immature male of this species, captured at sea on October 27th, 1907, within sight of the coast, a few miles off Port Said.

GALERIDA CRISTATA NIGRICANS.

*Galerita cristata* Shelley, p. 138.

*Alauda cristata* Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 118.

*Galerida cristata nigricans* Hartert, Vög. der Pal. Fauna, iii. p. 227.

Crested Larks were numerous on the cultivated ground and on the strip of desert close to the edge of the lake. All those seen belonged to the well-marked form which ranges throughout the Nile Delta from Damietta to Cairo.



## ALAUDA ARVENSIS.

*Alauda arvensis* Shelley, p. 139; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 119.

The Skylark was less abundant than the Crested Lark, though numbers were seen in the clover-fields.

The form which winters in Egypt is darker and greyer than the British.

## CALANDRELLA MINOR.

Three examples of this little Lark were obtained, and several more were seen, on some artificially made sandbanks near the edge of the lake. The flight of this bird is very buoyant, and it utters a low musical twittering when flying.

## EMBERIZA MILIARIA.

*Emberiza miliaria* Shelley, p. 144.

A pair of Corn-Buntings were seen on January 10th on the cultivated land at Gheit-el-Nassara. I have obtained specimens near Giza in March, but do not think that this species is a resident.

## STURNUS VULGARIS.

*Sturnus vulgaris* Shelley, p. 157; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 119.

A few small flocks of Starlings were seen near the lake, but no specimens were obtained. A bird obtained at Giza belongs to this form.

This species does not seem to be abundant in Egypt, and the few examples met with during the winter were extremely shy and difficult to approach.

## CORVUS CORNIX.

*Corvus cornix* Shelley, p. 159.

*Corvus cornix sharpei* Hartert, Vögel der Pal. Fauna, Heft i. p. 10.

Hooded Crows were seen in numbers from Cairo to Tanta. At the latter place, however, they were not numerous, though a few old nests were seen in the trees near the station. After leaving Tanta no more Crows were met with.

Compared with British examples the Egyptian Hooded Crow is much paler. At present I have had no opportunity of comparing it with the true *C. cornix sharpei* from India,

and as it is strictly a resident in Egypt, though of local distribution, I hesitate to place it under the same name as the Indian bird. I believe, however, that the Egyptian Hooded Crow has lately been subspecifically named.

IYNX TORQUILLA.

*Yunx torquilla* Shelley, p. 161.

*Iynx torquilla* Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 119.

I shot a Wryneck on January 6th close to the Coast-guard Station. This was the only example that we met with, and although it is a regular migrant in autumn and spring to and from its winter-quarters, it was somewhat of a surprise to find it here in January.

UPUPA EPOPS.

*Upupa epops* Shelley, p. 165.

I saw a few Hoopoes from the train between Cairo and Damietta, but none were observed at Gheit-el-Nassara. Mr. Loat does not mention this species.

ALCEDO ISPIDA BENGALENSIS.

*Alcedo ispida* Shelley, p. 165; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 119.

A single example of this Kingfisher was seen in a small reed-girt pond. It is a winter-visitor to the neighbourhood of Cairo.

CERYLE RUDIS.

*Ceryle rudis* Shelley, p. 167; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 119.

The Pied Kingfisher was frequently noticed during the journey from Cairo to Tanta, after which it became much scarcer and was not seen at all at Damietta. This species is resident in Egypt.

CIRCUS ÆRUGINOSUS.

*Circus æruginosus* Shelley, p. 181; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 120.

The Marsh-Harrier was the most abundant raptorial bird at Gheit-el-Nassara. Both adult and immature examples were observed, but owing to their excessive shyness no specimens were obtained.

## FALCO PEREGRINUS.

*Falco peregrinus* Shelley, p. 186 ; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 120.

Peregrines were sometimes seen harrying the Dunliu along the edge of the lake.

## FALCO SACER.

*Falco saker* Shelley, p. 190.

A Sacer Falcon was seen on a small island in Lake Menzaleh.

## FALCO SUBBUTEO.

*Falco subbuteo* Shelley, p. 192.

I saw two Hobbies at Gheit-el-Nassara during our stay there.

## FALCO ÆSALON.

*Falco aesalon* Shelley, p. 191.

A single example was seen at Gheit-el-Nassara.

## TINNUNCULUS ALAUDARIUS.

*Falco tinnunculus* Shelley, p. 194.

Kestrels were numerous between Cairo and Tanta ; after the latter town they became scarcer and very few were seen at Gheit-el-Nassara.

Compared with British examples, the Egyptian Kestrels are smaller and more heavily marked, while those from the Sudan (Khartoum) appear to be much paler in coloration.

## MILVUS MIGRANS ÆGYPTIUS.

*Milvus egyptius* Shelley, p. 196 ; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 120.

The Yellow-billed Kite was seen in numbers as far as Tanta. At that place it became less numerous, while none at all were seen at Damietta or Gheit-el-Nassara.

## MILVUS REGALIS.

*Milvus regalis* Shelley, p. 195.

Capt. Shelley did not personally meet with the Kite in Egypt. I fancy, however, that it occurs occasionally, for I saw two undoubted examples shortly after leaving Tanta in the train for Damietta.

PANDION HALIAËTUS.

*Pandion haliaëtus* Shelley, p. 203.

I saw an Osprey on January 10th close to the Coast-guard Station at Gheit-el-Nassara.

ARDEA CINEREA.

*Ardea cinerea* Shelley, p. 256; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 122.

Grey Herons were exceedingly numerous, both on the islets in Lake Menzaleh and on the marshes at Gheit-el-Nassara. I obtained no skins of this species, but purchased three examples alive, one adult and two immature, which had been netted on the lake.

ARDEA ALBA.

*Herodias alba* Shelley, p. 267.

We saw about twenty Great White Herons sitting on an island in Lake Menzaleh on January 7th.

Mr. Loat does not seem to have met with this bird near Damietta.

PHÆNICOPTERUS ROSEUS.

*Phœnicopterus antiquorum* Shelley, p. 272; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 122.

One of the chief objects of our visit to Damietta was to obtain living examples of the Flamingo. It seemed, however, that we were a few weeks too early, for, although thousands were seen, the fishermen had not begun to catch them in any quantity, owing to the water being still too high.

These birds are netted by the fishermen in large numbers yearly, and are used as an article of diet. When the water is sufficiently low the birds are driven into long flight-nets. At the time of our visit very few of the nets were being worked, but in many of the parts of the lake frequented by the birds long lines of reeds were stuck up in the water. This, it seems, is done some time before the netting takes place, so as to get the birds accustomed to the nets and poles, and certainly these reeds with their feathery tops have every appearance of a line of nets when seen from a distance.

We saw, moreover, many birds—Flamingos, Pelicans, and Ducks—fly through the lines of reeds when put up by our steamer. The annual “take” of water-fowl on Lake Menzaleh must be very great. Most of the birds are sent to local markets, but a good many reach Cairo, by which time, however, they are nearly dead from the rough handling which they have experienced during and subsequent to capture.

A long line of Flamingos was seen daily from the “Rest-House,” and their hoarse cries were continually heard, although the birds themselves were at least a mile from the edge of the lake. I saw a bird in first plumage with black legs in the market-place at Gheit-el-Nassara.

We were unable to ascertain for certain whether Flamingos nested on Lake Menzaleh or not. Some of the local fishermen assured us that they did, but others said that they were migratory. It is probable that the majority of Flamingos seen on the lake during the winter are immigrants, but there seems to be no reason why some should not remain and breed.

PHALACROCORAX CARBO.

*Phalacrocorax carbo* Shelley, p. 295.

Large quantities of Cormorants were seen on the lake near Matariah; all of them appeared to be of this species. I have one skin of this Cormorant, which was shot from a flock of twelve near Giza, December 1907.

PELECANUS CRISPUS.

*Pelecanus crispus* Shelley, p. 293.

Several Pelicans of this species were seen on Lake Menzaleh, near Matariah.

PELECANUS ONOCROTALUS.

*Pelecanus onocrotalus* Shelley, p. 293.

This appears to be the most abundant species of Pelican in Lower Egypt during the winter. Great numbers were seen on Lake Menzaleh.

Judging from the specimens now living in the Giza

Zoological Gardens, the males are slightly larger and have a much greater development of the "knob" on the forehead than the females.

RALLUS AQUATICUS.

*Rallus aquaticus* Shelley, p. 273.

I saw a single Water-Rail amongst the bulrushes on a large pond at Gheit-el-Nassara on January 6th.

FULICA ATRA.

*Fulica atra* Shelley, p. 278; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 123.

Enormous numbers of Coots were seen on Lake Menzaleh. During the inundations thousands of Coots are to be met with near Giza, but we have never seen an example of *Fulica cristata* among the many examined. Captain Flower tells me that he has never met with the latter species during a ten years' residence in Egypt, and Capt. Shelley apparently did not obtain a specimen.

ANAS BOSCHAS.

*Anas boschas* Shelley, p. 283; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 123.

The Wild Duck was frequently seen both on the lake and fighting over at dusk, but was not nearly so abundant as the Pintail.

ANAS STREPERA.

*Anas strepera* Shelley, p. 283.

A single female Gadwall was purchased alive at Matariah, on Lake Menzaleh.

QUERQUEDULA CRECCA.

*Querquedula crecca* Shelley, p. 286; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 123.

A very few Teal were met with; most of these were seen on the marshes during the evening "flight."

MARECA PENELOPE.

*Mareca penelope* Shelley, p. 288; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 123.

Thousands of Wigeon were seen on Lake Menzaleh. When approaching Matariah the water for miles round was covered with Ducks, nearly all of which appeared to belong to this species. We saw one net, a large clap-net, used



for these Ducks. It was set on the water about three hundred yards from a small bush-covered island. As we passed the men in charge of the net had just "pulled," and some boys were wading out to secure the Ducks with which the net seemed full. We had no opportunity of examining the nets used, but from a distance they appeared to be similar to those used on the marshes except for their larger size. I imagine, however, that they are floated on the surface, and that it requires at least two men to pull the rope, owing to the distance at which the nest is set from the "hide." I purchased a pair of live Wigeons; the drake was in full plumage.

*DAFILA ACUTA.*

*Dafila acuta* Shelley, p. 284; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 123.

The Pintail was the most abundant species of Duck at Gheit-el-Nassara during our visit. Numbers came into the marshes at night and many were caught by the local fishermen. Near every pool in the marshes we saw "hides" composed of reeds and bushes, from which these Ducks are caught. The *modus operandi* is as follows:—

About sunset a small clap-net is set on the edge of a pool, and on the ground enclosed by it a few handfuls of small bird-seed are scattered; the fisherman then retires to his "hide," situated about seventy yards from the net, and from this shelter pulls the rope as soon as a Duck has settled in the right spot. The birds thus caught are taken to Damietta, where they are sold alive in the markets. We purchased a few freshly-caught Pintails for about 1s. 3d. each. Nearly all those taken during our stay were males in full plumage.

*SPATULA CLYPEATA.*

*Rhynchaspis clypeata* Shelley, p. 285; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 123.

A few Shovelers were seen on the lake.

*FULIGULA FERINA.*

*Fuligula ferina* Shelley, p. 289; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 123.

Numbers of Pochards were seen on Lake Menzaleh.

Shortly before I left for Cairo a man brought eight of these Ducks to me alive, which I purchased. Only two were males and both were in full plumage.

FULIGULA RUFINA.

*Fuligula rufina* Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 123.

Mr. Loat purchased two male Red-crested Pochards during his stay at Damietta. Although Capt. Shelley does not mention this species in his 'Birds of Egypt,' it would seem that the Red-crested Pochard is not very rare during the winter in the vicinity of Lake Menzaleh, for during 1907 several living examples were purchased in Cairo, seven at least of which had been caught on the Lake, and of these three are now living in the Giza Zoological Gardens. Moreover, during our stay at Gheit-el-Nassara I watched for some time a pair of these fine Ducks swimming on a large sheet of water not far from the edge of the lake.

The eclipse plumage of the male almost exactly resembles the plumage of the adult female, except that it is somewhat darker. The red bill of the male is, however, always a distinguishing feature.

FULIGULA CRISTATA.

*Fuligula cristata* Shelley, p. 290; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 123.

Many Tufted Ducks were seen on Lake Menzaleh. This is one of the most abundant species of Ducks in Egypt during the winter months.

GALLINAGO CÆLESTIS.

*Gallinago media* Shelley, p. 249.

*Gallinago cælestis* Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 121.

The Full Snipe was not so often met with at Gheit-el-Nassara as the Jack-Snipe.

GALLINAGO GALLINULA.

*Gallinago gallinula* Shelley, p. 249; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 121.

The Jack-Snipe was common on the marshes at Gheit-el-Nassara and three specimens were obtained.

## ÆDICNEMUS CREPITANS.

*Ædicnemus crepitans* Shelley, p. 230.

A Stone-Curlew was heard close to the "Rest-House" on the evening of January 7th. This species is resident in Lower Egypt, but at present I have had no opportunity of comparing it with British or European specimens.

## SQUATAROLA HELVETICA.

*Squatarola helvetica* Shelley, p. 236; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 120.

Only one Grey Plover was seen—on the edge of the lake.

## CHARADRIUS PLUVIALIS.

*Charadrius pluvialis* Shelley, p. 235.

Mr. Loat did not meet with the Golden Plover, and we only saw one small flock at Ghcit-el-Nassara.

## ÆGIALITIS CANTIANA.

*Ægialitis cantianus* Shelley, p. 240.

*Ægialitis cantiana* Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 120.

The Kentish Plover was seen in large numbers on the edge of Lake Menzaleh and two examples were obtained. All the specimens of this species which I have examined in Egypt, where it appears to be resident, seem darker in coloration than British examples, but at present I have had no opportunity of comparing them. The tarsi of Egyptian specimens are slaty grey, and, so far as my experience goes, are never black as in British examples. This, however, may be dependent on the time of year, as I have no skins obtained during the breeding-season.

## ÆGIALITIS HIATICULA.

*Ægialitis hiaticula* Shelley, p. 241; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 120.

Captain Shelley refers all the specimens of the Ringed Plover which he obtained to *Æ. intermedia*. The two specimens in our collection belong, I should say, to the smaller form which is frequently met with in England. This smaller form I take to be Shelley's *Ægialitis intermedia*.

ÆGIALITIS CURONICA.

*Ægialitis minor* Shelley, p. 242.

*Ægialitis curonica* Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 121.

Little Ringed Plovers were common on the edge of the lake. They were, however, very wild and no specimens were obtained.

VANELLUS VULGARIS.

*Vanellus cristatus* Shelley, p. 231.

Several Green Plovers were observed from the train shortly before we got to Damietta. The bird is a winter-visitor only, and it is probably owing to this reason that it is not mentioned by Mr. Loat.

TRINGA ALPINA.

*Tringa cinclus* Shelley, p. 253.

*Tringa alpina* Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 121.

Large flocks of Dunlins were met with on the edge of the lake, and many were seen on the small islets. A single example obtained on January 8th was in a curious condition: the black breast and red dorsal feathers of the previous summer plumage had not been completely shed. The new feathers were those of winter plumage. This bird shewed no signs of former injury.

TRINGA SUBARQUATA.

*Tringa subarquata* Shelley, p. 254.

A few Curlew-Sandpipers were noticed among the Dunlins on the edge of the lake, but no examples were obtained.

TRINGA MINUTA.

*Tringa minuta* Shelley, p. 251 ; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 121.

Little Stints were met with in large flocks on the edge of the lake. All those seen were in full winter plumage.

TRINGA TEMMINCKI.

*Tringa temminckii* Shelley, p. 252 ; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 121.

We saw a few Temminck's Stints at Gheit-el-Nassara, but they appeared to prefer pools of water in the marshes and did not frequent the edge of the lake. An example obtained was in full winter plumage.

## TOTANUS CALIDRIS.

*Totanus calidris* Shelley, p. 255; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 121.

Several Redshanks were seen on the marshes as well as on the islets in the lake.

## TOTANUS FUSCUS.

*Totanus fuscus* Shelley, p. 255.

Several Spotted Redshanks were seen in the marshes at Gheit-el-Nassara, but no examples were obtained.

## TOTANUS CANESCENS.

*Totanus canescens* Shelley, p. 256; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 121.

Greenshanks were seen almost daily in small parties on the marshes.

## TOTANUS GLAREOLA.

*Totanus glareola* Shelley, p. 259; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 122.

A few Wood-Sandpipers were seen in the marshes near Gheit-el-Nassara.

## TOTANUS OCHROPUS.

*Totanus ochropus* Shelley, p. 258.

We met with a few Green Sandpipers at Gheit-el-Nassara, but no specimens were obtained.

## TOTANUS STAGNATILIS.

*Totanus stagnatilis* Shelley, p. 257.

We saw two or three Marsh-Sandpipers at Gheit-el-Nassara. They were excessively wild and usually kept to the open part of the marsh near the edge of the lake. No specimens were obtained. Mr. Loat does not appear to have met with this species.

## RECURVIROSTRA AVOCETTA.

*Recurvirostra avocetta* Shelley, p. 260; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 122.

A single Avocet was seen on January 10th near the lake.

## STERNA FLUVIATILIS.

*Sterna fluviatilis* Shelley, p. 299.

A few medium-sized Terns seen on Lake Menzaleh I refer to this species.

## STERNA ANGLICA.

*Sterna anglica* Shelley, p. 297.

Several Gull-billed Terns were seen on the lake, while I have skins of this species from Giza and Khartoum. I have also seen *Sterna cantiaca* near Giza in November.

## LARUS RIDIBUNDUS.

*Larus ridibundus* Shelley, p. 309.

The Black-headed Gull is one of the commonest Gulls in Lower Egypt during the winter months. We saw numbers at Gheit-el-Nassara and on Lake Menzaleh. One adult in winter plumage was caught at Matariah and brought back alive.

## LARUS ICHTHYAËTUS.

*Larus ichthyaëtus* Shelley, p. 307.

A living example of this magnificent Gull brought to me had been shot in the wing during a gale at Gheit-el-Nassara. It was just assuming the black head by a moult. We saw several other examples of the Great Black-headed Gull on Lake Menzaleh.

## LARUS CANUS.

*Larus canus* Shelley, p. 305.

The Common Gull was fairly numerous on Lake Menzaleh. Two living examples were brought back alive to Giza.

## LARUS ARGENTATUS.

*Larus argentatus* Shelley, p. 305.

Several Herring-Gulls were seen at close quarters on Lake Menzaleh and clearly identified, although no examples were shot. I once saw this species near Giza in November 1907.

## LARUS CACHINNANS.

*Larus leucophæus* Shelley, p. 304.

Several Yellow-legged Herring-Gulls were seen on Lake Menzaleh.

## LARUS FUSCUS.

*Larus fuscus* Shelley, p. 304; Loat, Ibis, 1906, p. 124.

Several Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen on Lake